



PROSPECTUS

*To lead those in our care to grow in their faith
and to benefit from an enriching education*



**St Thomas More
Catholic School**

The King's good servant but God's first

“THIS IS AN
OUTSTANDING SCHOOL.”
OFSTED

Welcome to St Thomas More Catholic School

*A forward-thinking yet traditional mixed
secondary school with a reputation for high
standards and excellent student behaviour.*

Everything we do is built on our vision for every child: to **Succeed**, to **Thrive**, and to **Make a Difference**. Our recent achievements, accolades and awards are well-deserved and founded upon the strong Catholic ethos that permeates the school and focuses upon spiritual development. We believe that every child is capable of exceeding expectations and that a well-ordered and disciplined learning climate makes success possible for all.

We have a great deal to celebrate in terms of outstanding examination results at both GCSE and A level. We take our responsibility for educating young people seriously and are proud of our accomplishments.

At St Thomas More we are blessed with a highly skilled team of teachers, teaching assistants and associate staff. Together with an effective Governing Body, there is a shared determination and passion to strengthen our growing reputation and continue upon the path of exceptional progress.

At St Thomas More we value each student as unique and special. We make sure they are happy, feel safe, enjoy learning, work with enthusiasm and make a contribution to the life of the school. We believe we have something to offer all – whatever their starting point, ensuring their skills and abilities are praised, nurtured and shaped. This is what it means for a child to **Thrive** with us.

We are able to set and stream students to offer a genuine approach to personalised learning. We work hard to ensure students learn best and we make use of the latest technologies and teaching styles to ensure no individual is left behind. We place great value on developing personal responsibility, integrity, manners, courtesy, and the CREST values of **Courage**, **Respect**, **Effort**, **Service** and **Teamwork** that we ask every student to live out each day.

We prepare our students to stay on at our successful Sixth Form and it is important to us that when they leave with outstanding academic qualifications, they also possess a strong set of values. Our aim is that they are polite, pleasant and conscientious young people, ready to **Make a Difference** as active citizens in a dynamic economy.

We invite students to begin their journey to **Succeed**, **Thrive** and **Make a Difference**, and to be part of our outstanding learning community.

Our CREST Values

At the heart of the St Thomas More vision – Succeed, Thrive, and Make a Difference – are the five CREST values. We ask every student to carry these into the classroom, onto the sports field and out into the wider world:

Courage

Trying new things, speaking up for what is right, and having the confidence to learn from setbacks as well as successes.

Respect

For themselves, for one another, for staff, and for the Catholic ethos and traditions that shape our community.

Effort

Bringing focus and application to every lesson, every piece of homework and every opportunity, so that every student can Succeed.

Service

Looking outward, contributing to the life of the school and the wider community, and using their talents to **Make a Difference** to others.

Teamwork

Working well with others, supporting classmates, and recognising that our community is stronger when we pull together.



Mr Martin Tissot, MA, MBA, NPQH
Executive Headteacher



Mr Alex Rosen
Head of School



SUCCEED:

The Highest Quality of Teaching and Learning

At St Thomas More, we recognise that students learn in various ways and we strive to use approaches, techniques and technologies which will maximise progress for all, helping every student to **Succeed**. Students are taught in sensibly sized classes – grouped as appropriate, according to ability, aptitude and interest – to ensure that individuals' learning needs can be met. The work of teachers and subject departments is kept under regular review, so that we can be sure that students are getting the best opportunities for success.

We use a wide range of learning resources and subscribe to various online providers including 'SAM Learning', accessible to our students from home. Our well-stocked Library/Learning Resources Centre plays an important role in the life of our school.

We place exceptional emphasis on developing literacy and numeracy skills, so in Key Stage Three, extra time is devoted to these core subjects. We operate within the framework of the National Curriculum, while at the same time using the flexibility we have as an Academy to offer programmes which reflect and address the needs of our students.

Our Highly-Able Programme identifies those students with particular gifts and provides them with opportunities to excel – a genuine test of **Courage** and **Effort**. In our mentoring programmes, students are helped to focus on ways to make the most of their talents. Our after-school curriculum consists of 'Prep', which allows all students to access supported study until 7pm, as well as extension lessons for those taking public examinations and a host of clubs including a Youth Club.

“Pupils are confident, courteous and curious learners.” OFSTED

“Pupils follow a rich and ambitious curriculum.” OFSTED



THRIVE:

A Caring and Professional Approach to Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is, in the first instance, in the hands of Form Tutors, who are the initial line of contact for parents in their dealings with the school. Form Tutors are led by Heads of Year who ensure that each child is able to make the most of the opportunities offered and reach the highest levels of achievement and personal development – so that every student can **Thrive**.

The promotion of our Catholic ethos is not just the province of the Religious Education Department but woven into the day-to-day practice of school life. Children are encouraged to develop their relationship with God and their awareness of the benefits and challenges of an ongoing religious commitment, and to treat one another always with **Respect**.

Personal wellbeing and PSHCCE are taught both through dedicated lessons and a programme of drop-down days, which includes religious retreats and health education.

If a student's behaviour or progress gives any cause for concern, we will contact parents, so that in partnership we can find ways to help the student get back on track. Parents are advised regularly about academic progress by a system of half-termly assessments and an annual parents' meeting. We also collaborate with the full range of outside support agencies to provide specialist help as and when required.

“Pupils’ confidence builds quickly, and they embody the values of the school.” OFSTED

“The pastoral care and support given by the school is exceptional.” OFSTED

MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

An Education for the Future

The school has a strong tradition in sporting and musical achievement, and we are ambitious for our students to move on after Sixth Form either to university or on to a career path that allows for progression and development.

Throughout school we emphasise the importance of confident self-presentation, good manners and a well-rounded education that broadens social and cultural horizons. We ensure a comprehensive careers education, with a range of resources and speakers to help our young people make informed choices about their future, culminating in our annual Future Pathways event. Visits to theatres, historical sites and places of interest are regular features of the curriculum, and students have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, including expedition trips that call for real **Teamwork**. We also have strong international links and a 'Wider Horizons' programme which includes experiences across the world.

Our Sixth Formers make a significant contribution to the life of the school, putting **Service** into practice. In Year 12, students have the opportunity to support younger students in their learning through paired reading or our well established mentoring scheme. They raise money for Christmas presents for children in care, organise community events and support projects in the developing world alongside international charities.

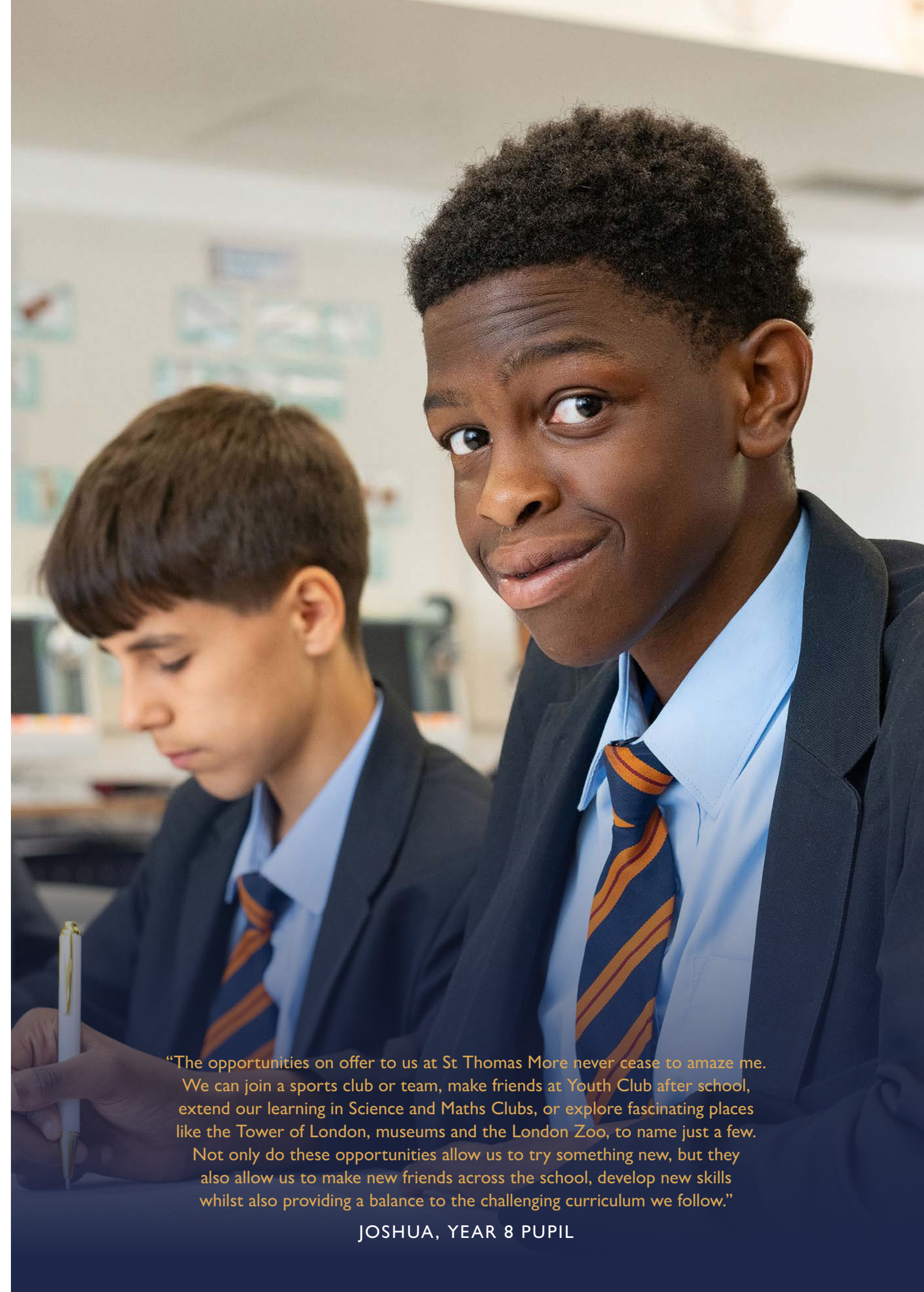
We are meticulous in preparing our Sixth Form students for university with a programme that starts early in Year 12. Workshops preparing our students for their university applications are organised together with visits to partner universities, including those in the Russell Group.

Careers seminars are organised for our Year 13 students to allow them to explore a range of occupations and to match their personal skills and attributes to potential pathways.

By the time our students leave St Thomas More School, they are well-rounded young people, equipped for the next stage of their lives – whether it be university or the world of work – and ready to **Make a Difference** as active global citizens.

“Students and parents are very proud of their school.” OFSTED

“Sixth form students take an active role in mentoring younger pupils and endeavour to be role models for their peers.” OFSTED



“The opportunities on offer to us at St Thomas More never cease to amaze me. We can join a sports club or team, make friends at Youth Club after school, extend our learning in Science and Maths Clubs, or explore fascinating places like the Tower of London, museums and the London Zoo, to name just a few. Not only do these opportunities allow us to try something new, but they also allow us to make new friends across the school, develop new skills whilst also providing a balance to the challenging curriculum we follow.”

JOSHUA, YEAR 8 PUPIL



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Glendale Avenue, Wood Green, London, N22 5HN 020 8888 7122

Admissions enquiries: admissions@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk

Other queries: parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk